

# **CALIFORNIA CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION**

**Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

**Kern County**

**Board of Supervisor's Chambers**

**1115 Truxtun Avenue**

**Bakersfield, CA 93301**

## **I. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Reiner at 9:00 a.m.

## **II. Roll Call.**

Present were Commissioners Kim Belshé, Sandra Gutierrez, Susan Lacey, Louis Vismara, Theresa Garcia and Chairman Reiner.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of those whose lives were lost during the attack on the United States on 9-11-2001.

## **III. Approval of Minutes, July 19 and August 16, 2001 State Commission Meeting.**

**MOTION:** Chairman Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Lacey to approve the July 19 and August 16, 2001 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

## **IV. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Reiner made remarks on the recent attack on the United States. Chairman Reiner spoke in appreciation for the funding stream for the projects undertaken by the Commission.

Chairman Reiner thanked the Packard Foundation for its \$300,000 contribution to the Commission's Incentive/Retention for Child Care matching funds. This money is for the Packard Cares database. The grant provides continuing assistance to the county commissions in their implementation of the matching funds for retention incentives for early care and education providers. It is a three-year pilot project with two funding cycles. The initial funding cycle benefited 14 county commissions. The Commission is funding a research component to produce an evaluation report that summarizes the effects of various compensation retention strategies.

The Kit for New Parents launch that was scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> has been postponed due to the recent attacks upon the United States. It may be necessary to distribute the kits before the news release so as not to withhold valuable information

provided by the kit.

Legislation to authorize the Commission to identify itself as California Children and Families Partnership has been signed by the Governor. This is not a name change; it is for limited use in connection with major public outreach activities. Focus groups strongly preferred information coming from a partnership rather than a commission.

Chairman Reiner offered condolences on behalf of the staff to Frank Furtek whose mother recently passed away.

## **V. Executive Director's Report**

Jane Henderson presented this discussion item. Ms. Henderson thanked Kern County for its efforts in hosting this month's meeting. Staff has found a new home for the Childcare Health Linkages Project. The UCSF School of Nursing is now involved in the project. Staff will report on the projects progress in the spring. The contract is approximately \$2.6M from September 1 through June 30, 2002.

Agendas that have been identified by Commissioners as needing further development include prenatal care, training programs for formal and informal caregivers, and research. Workgroups will be formed to develop a strategic approach to developing these programs. These topics will be presented to the Commission in the fall. Panels will be convened to answer questions from the Commission.

Staff has issued the second round of matching funds for retention incentives for early care and education providers. Forty-one counties submitted applications. The local Proposition 10 investment is \$40.1 million with other local investments of almost \$6 million and state matching funds of \$13.3 million. The total number of providers to be served is over 20,000. The project is based on the research documents that turn over in the service providers is extremely detrimental to young children.

The Governor requested an administrative review of Cal Works Childcare over the past year. The review was performed using data provided by the California Department of Education. It was overseen by the State and Consumer Services Agency. The report was issued last spring. The report showed that there was not sufficient funds to meet the needs of both Cal Works recipients and the Working Poor. It has raised concerns in the field. Will the resources need to be spread even more thinly? Staff has set up a working group with key members of the Commission staff and Secretary Adams on a monthly basis. The working group is creatively searching for other avenues of financing.

There has been a lot of national attention focused on early care and education initiatives. Keeping the momentum going on this in light of the recent events will be challenging. The National Governors Association recently looked at a number of state initiatives involving early childhood development programs. The CCFC was invited to talk about

Proposition 10. Other states featured included Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, New Hampshire, Maryland, Washington and Wisconsin. Zero to Three and the National Governors Association are also sponsoring a state early childhood policy leadership forum. The forum is a year-long fellowship program. Participating states include Hawaii, Colorado, Ohio, California, Washington DC, Vermont, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, Alabama, Oklahoma and Illinois. There is a forthcoming publication by the Children's Defense Fund called "Bringing it Together – State driven early childhood initiatives that will feature what is happening in several states. The Packard Foundation is also sponsoring a peer networking group, which is going to be meeting in Newport, Rhode Island in October to look at indicators of School Readiness. California will be participating in this meeting. There will be a conference held in Atlanta sponsored by the A. L. Mailman Family Foundation and the United States Department of Education National Center for Early Development and Learning – Assessing the State of State Assessments. California will be represented at this conference.

Commissioner Belshé emphasized that given the Commission has identified School Readiness as its organizing framework, and given the master planning effort around School Readiness, as well as the issues that the Commission and others have identified as meriting further consideration, it may be a good idea to convene each month organized around the essential elements of School Readiness.

#### Public Comment

Gene Lucas spoke in support of early deployment of the Kit for New Parents.

B.A. Ganado urged the inclusion of local health offices when developing the health issue components of the School Readiness Initiative.

## **VI. California Children and Families Association Report**

Dorinda Ohnstad presented this discussion item. Gloria Bryngelson highlighted some of the accomplishments of the TA Committee over the past several months. A service directory has been finalized. The directory can be used as a desk reference by county commission staff. The directory clarifies the TA role of the both the State Commission and the Association. The distinction is that the State Commission provides TA on statewide issues and the TA Center provides TA locally. The committee went through a facilitative exercise regarding School Readiness. The committee identified the TA needs of the counties, when they would need it and the preferred delivery method. This information is being summarized for the State Commission. San Diego will host a workgroup meeting in October following the commissioners' retreat. The workgroup will include State Commission staff and executive directors representing all of the Association committees and caucuses. The purpose of the workgroup is to develop a scope of work for a RFP for TA that will bring into operation the State Commission's portion of this matrix.

Pat Wheatley provided an update on how the Association is progressing with evaluation. An August meeting of State Commission staff and Association representatives was held to examine the overall view of evaluation and to clarify the responsibilities on all levels. The objectives of the meeting were to develop a common understanding of the respective roles and needs of the county level evaluation systems, the state evaluation systems and how these systems should interact, to develop a conceptual framework for how evaluation of the School Readiness Initiative will be linked and integrated with broader county results reporting, and to define key criteria that should be incorporated into the RFP for the selection of a state evaluation contractor.

Dorinda Ohnstad reported that yesterday the Association announced Steve Barrow as the new Executive Director of the Association.

The Association has adopted a legislative and state initiative policy process. The Association also officially adopted its business plan that will lay out the activities of the Association and what it hopes to achieve over the next year. Equity principles were discussed at the Association meeting.

At the request of the county commissioners, State Commissioners were invited to participate in the County Commissioner retreat to be held in San Diego on September 30 and October 1.

## **VII Central Valley Project**

Steve Ladd, Executive Director of Kern County Children & Families Commission, presented this Discussion Item. Handouts were distributed and discussed. A summary of the request follows.

The Central Valley Farm Worker Demonstration project will address the critical needs of farm worker children in the counties of Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus over a four-year period. The project will deploy a large network of locally recruited and intensively trained paraprofessionals utilizing the *promotora* model of service delivery. This request is for \$13,000,000 per year over a four-year period to contract initially with the Kern County Children and Families Commission and subsequently with a new organization for a period of October 2001 to December 2005. These funds will be used to address the needs of farm worker children by implementing a regional pilot project to provide critical services to children and their families in the communities where they live. If successful, the project can subsequently be implemented on a wider scale throughout the state.

The proposal follows.

### 1. Proposed contractor (if known)

The project will be implemented by a formal partnership of the executive directors of the seven participating county Children and Families Commissions. The regional consortium will partner with the local workforce investment boards in each county to provide customized training, industry-specific training, on-the-job training, and certification for the *promotoras* hired.

### 2. Scope of work

The project will develop and deploy a multi-county network of locally recruited and intensively trained paraprofessionals utilizing the *promotora* model of service delivery. The *promotoras* will be defined as culturally competent, multi-lingual paraprofessionals and outreach specialists. They will be recruited from the local communities and neighborhoods of the isolated rural towns and labor camps, and thus bring an already-established relationship of trust with the target families in those same communities. The *promotoras* will deliver services and information face-to-face, in the oral tradition of the immigrant cultures that are being targeted by this project. They will utilize a home-based, family-centered approach, rather than requiring clients to travel to a central location. The *promotora* networks will provide a direct link between service providers delivering programs at centralized facilities and the isolated rural, monolingual, or undocumented residents who might otherwise remain unaware or unable to access these services.

### 3. Primary goals and objectives

#### Project Objectives

- The project will be client-driven and responsive to the specific needs identified by the parents of farm worker children.
- The services will be delivered to the families in the local communities and sites where the children live and the parents work.
- The services will be provided to the children and parents in their native languages and in a culturally competent manner.
- The project will result in tangible, measurable benefits to the physical health, brain development, school readiness, and emotional development of the farm worker children.
- The project will be designed to maximize the economic development benefit of investment in the farm worker communities and of training and employment of local farm worker family members.

#### 4. Population

The project will directly benefit more than 94,000 farm worker children aged 0-5 in the seven counties. This is approximately 31% of the total 0-5 population.

#### 5. Time frames

October 2001 through December 2005

#### 6. Evaluation

To be developed by the partnership in consultation with the California Children and Families Commission.

#### 7. Cost

The cost will be approximately \$13,000,000 per year over a four-year period. This is the amount requested to adequately address critical needs of farm worker children and families in the Central Valley. Not adjusting for unemployment, Central Valley project area farm workers contribute \$55,356 in annual per capita agricultural production, 31% higher productivity compared to the statewide average of \$41,198. This is a very unique and productive sector of the labor force, including men, women and children, which simply cannot be neglected.

John Nylon and Pete Para spoke in support of the Central Valley Project.

Chairman Reiner recognized the need to address this issue in concept. The Chairman also recognized the magnitude of this project will raise many questions. Chairman Reiner asked if the \$52 million would be the full price tag for this initiative. Steve Ladd explained that this amount would be the initial starting point. The final price tag is unknown at this point. Dorinda Ohnstad stated that the \$52 million would be used to pay the promotor's salaries, administrative oversight and evaluation. Not seen in the budget are the training cost and other project enhancements. Chairman Reiner asked what portion of the total expected cost the \$52 million that would represent.

Commissioner Lacey noted that this was not new money, but that it was really money related to School Readiness. Chairman Reiner suggested that a portion of the \$200 million could be used for this project. The Chairman noted that there may be some money available, but the Commission does not have \$52 million.

Commissioner Lacey stressed that the School Readiness funds should be used to fund this project.

Chairman Reiner asked how many children in those counties would be served. Dorinda Ohnstad stated that all of the children in those counties would be served.

Commissioner Gutierrez recognized that this project relates to School Readiness and noted that the issues needs further discussion in this context. Commissioner Gutierrez asked the value of the living wage in these counties. Mr. Glad informed the Commission that the living wage is roughly \$12/hr. Commissioner Gutierrez asked if this project or related projects was mentioned in any of the strategic plans submitted to the Commission. Dorinda Ohnstad explained that it was not specifically mentioned in the strategic plans. Commissioner Gutierrez cautioned against making this the end-all be-all “farm worker” project. She further expressed concerns about the promotora model, noting that the childcare portion of this project needs improvement.

Dorinda Ohnstad stated that childcare is being addressed, but being done outside the scope of this particular project. Commissioner Lacey stated that the Commission needs to see how the childcare issues are being addressed.

Commissioner Gutierrez expressed concerns about the governance structure.

Chairman Reiner asked where the workforce was coming from, i.e., are these workers coming from other necessary positions.

Commissioner Vismara stressed that information in support of the notion that the promotoras will provide access and integration to existing services should be presented and is critical to the success of this project. He also expressed concerns over the lack of factors addressing issues of pesticides and toxic exposures.

Tony Gestellan stated that the feedback from the parents of farm worker children identified the desire of those parents to have professional childcare services. Mr. Gestellan said that the promotora model would satisfy this identified need. All of the issues addressed in this project are directly derived from feedback provided by community members of the seven counties involved in the project. The first deliverable would be a report of funding partners. Once these partners have been identified, their contributions would be used to increase the scope and depth of the base program funded by the Commission.

Commissioner Belshé commended the leadership being shown by those counties involved in this project. She then asked if the proposal represented the endorsement of each of the county commissions and have the local Work Force Investment Boards endorsed this proposal and committed funding toward the training component of the project. Dorinda Ohnstad informed the Commission that each of the seven counties is very supportive of this project. John Nylon informed the Commission that the Work Force Investment Boards of the Central Valley have not taken a formal position on the project, but that he has met with representatives from each of the boards and they are

supportive of the project. Dorinda Ohnstad noted that the endorsements would be presented to the Commission at a later date.

Commissioner Belshé opined that the objectives of the proposal read less like objectives and more like service delivery strategies. Dorinda Ohnstad suggested that the specific objectives and outcomes could be included in the proposal. Commissioner Belshé asked for more clarity on the fundamentals of the proposal. She noted that there will be tradeoffs in this zero-sum game and that further details need to be provided in order to better identify these tradeoffs.

Jane Henderson suggested that the counties should now present staff with an outline on how they will proceed with the development of the proposal given what has been brought up in discussion today. Ms. Henderson offered the assistance of staff in the development of the proposal.

Chairman Reiner expressed support for further development of the project proposal, and clarification with respect to School Readiness.

Commissioner Gutierrez suggested that the proposal also include information on the research related to promotoras.

#### Public Comment

Javier Guzman, Fresno Chicano Youth Center, presented information in support of this project. Mr. Guzman noted that the farm workers have been significant contributors to our society since 1920. Mr. Guzman urged the Commission to support this project in concept.

B.A. Ganado spoke in support of the project. Mr. Ganado noted that the immunization is a problem among farm worker children because their parents are out in the field. This request is for a down payment on a concept related to School Readiness. Access to services is a major problem for this target group. Mr. Ganado recommended that the Commission consider creative funding processes for this project.

Commissioner Vismara asked how many promotoras were employed in Kern County. Mr. Guzman replied that there were no promotora programs in any of the seven counties involved in this proposal. Commissioner Vismara requested information on existing promotora programs.

Dr. Portia Choi, Kern County Health Director, presented information on the success of outreach models in other populations.



Fillamina Hall, Kern County Consultant Coordinator, County Office of Education, stated that the promotora model sounds very much like the outreach home based model used by the Kern County Office of Education. The outreach workers mainly provide referral information. The model is expensive due to wages and logistics, but appears to be the most successful model given the remote location of residences. The model tends to lead to site based assistance for those receiving assistance.

Dorinda Ohnstad noted that there are distinctions to be made between the promotora model and simple home based models.

Jene Smith, California Childcare and Resource and Referral Network, thought that the program is well suited for the counties in up state California. In July, the Child development division will be funding a childcare initiative project in every county, including those counties involved in the project. Kern County Resource and Referral has \$50 thousand to commit to the childcare initiative.

Philip Trainer, Radio Bilingue, spoke in support of the project. Radio Bilingue is ready to collaborate on this project.

Ed Condin, Executive Director, California Head Start Association, spoke in support of the project. Head Start has been working in this area for many years. Head Start is concerned about the lack of working through an existing infrastructure that has been working in this area for more than two decades. Migrant Head Start should be brought forward in the development of this project and has expressed a desire to be involved in this project. Head Start has been under a State mandate to collaborate all over the state and has done so very successfully in prior years.

Chair Reiner asked Mr. Condin if Migrant Head Start has a similar model to the promotora model. Mr. Condin informed the Commission that Migrant Head Start shares characteristics with the promotora model.

Dorinda Ohnstad requested that the request for \$100,000 for the planning of this project be included on the agenda next month.

## **VIII. School Readiness Initiative**

Joe Munso presented this discussion item and provided a brief update on the current status of the School Readiness Initiative. The request for funding has been released to the counties. There have been three informational meetings around the state to go through the RFF with county commission staff and other interested parties. There have been two teleconferences to answer questions and provide direction. A frequently asked questions (FAQ) document has been generated from these discussions and is available on the State Commission website. There have been initial discussions with the criteria sub workgroup to finalize the review process with county commissions. Nine applications have been

received to date requesting implementation funds. Those applications are being processed as quickly as possible. The applications total approximately \$800,000 approved. The first applications are due October 15<sup>th</sup>. Staff has developed a detailed work plan for completing this project and will be presented to the Commission in October.

## **IX. School Readiness Component of the Master Plan for Education**

Jane Henderson presented this discussion item and provided an update on the progress of the School Readiness component of the Master Plan for Education, and discussed potential issues the working group may be bringing to the Commission as they produce the report.

Staff presented to the Legislature in early September. The presentation focused on where the working groups were headed. Staff has submitted an interim report to the joint committee. The report will be ready for the Commission shortly. The report can be found at [www.sen.ca.gov/masterplan](http://www.sen.ca.gov/masterplan). Ms. Henderson highlighted points from the report. Ms. Henderson also noted the January report deadline is very early and staff is finding the task to be very difficult. There is a meeting scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. There is a retreat planned for October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> for the working group committee chairs and legislative members of the joint committee in San Francisco.

Chairman Reiner expressed interest in the governance recommendation of the report. Jane Henderson noted that some of the concepts that are likely to be discussed are universal access to preschool, family leave, financing and governance.

Commissioner Gutierrez requested more information on how the Commission intends to address the issue of informal care givers. Quality assurance in training will be stressed as well as professional development.

Commissioner Belshé stressed the importance of identifying those issues upon which the Commission can make a difference as opposed to “critical” issues that the Commission may not be effective. She suggested convening policy panels to recommend options to the Commission in further refining the policy agenda and budget priorities.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated that at the last meeting it was stated that the Commission would hold a working group on the training issues relating to childcare.

Commissioner Lacey recommended that the current outline be presented to a representative group of kindergarten teachers for their feedback. Commissioner Vismara suggested that Ex-Commissioner Margaret Fortune might be of assistance in developing the representative group.

Commissioner Vismara endorsed the convening of a panel presented by Commissioner Belshé. One panel could include representatives from the childcare community, early childcare educators and kindergarten teachers. Another panel could be comprised of those dealing with the administrative issues. A third panel could consist of people in case management.

Jane Henderson stated that feedback now regarding the Master Plan is helpful in making sure that the recommendations that go forward are things that the Commission is familiar with. Once that report is completed, there will be an opportunity to look at those things that are likely to be of interest to the Commission in furthering its policy agenda and annual budget priorities.

Chairman Reiner asked staff to inform the Commission of which presentations it should be focusing on.

Commissioner Belshé suggested a two-track approach. The policy issues of the Master Plan are related to the broader issues of the policy agenda. There is also a need to bring more clarity and focus to the Commission's funding objectives. The panel approach could highlight some of the key policy questions emerging out of the Master Plan.

Chairman Reiner said he felt that the Commission has already done a lot to define what School Readiness means to the Commission.

#### Public Comment

Leslie Dragu, Kern County CFC, suggested that the January kindergarten conference would be a good way to involve the teachers and offered to provide more information on this idea.

Gene Lucas expressed concerns about the Commission being tied up in the political issues of School Readiness to the point being ineffective in other areas. He expressed concerns about the age category reassignment from 0-5 years to 0-8 years. If anything, Mr. Lucas suggested redefining back to 0-3 years.

### **X. Technical Assistance for County Commissions**

Joe Munso presented this discussion item. This item has been made much shorter from what was originally planned due to the events on September 11. More detail will be provided to the Commission in the later part of October in terms of long and short-term activities surrounding technical assistance.

## **XI. Annual Review of Guidelines**

Joe Munso presented this discussion item. Staff recommends that the Diversity Equity Principles document be made a formal part of the guidelines to counties when they look at issues of strategic planning and funding proposals. This would constitute the only change recommendation from staff on the Commission Guidelines.

Commissioner Gutierrez mentioned that the Diversity Committee meeting has been rescheduled for October due to travel restrictions.

## **XII. Legislation**

This item has been removed from the agenda.

## **XIII. Closed Session: Discussion and Status Report from Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Litigation:**

The Commission met in closed session.

## **XIV. Media and Community-Based Organizations Outreach Update**

Kristina Schake and Nicole Evans presented this discussion item. An update on the CBO program was presented. A review of the CBO program's goals was presented. The CBO grant program was the focus of the presentation. The CBO program will provide public education outreach to those who are not reached through the paid media or public relations efforts. The main objective is to raise public awareness, but also to communicate local priorities and programs for the community. An overview of the structure was presented. The State Commission provided the funding for this program through approval of the public relations RFP last year. The regional groups of county commissions will have the authority to make funding decisions. The program was structured this way to better reflect the goals of each of the local communities.

Helen Sanchez and Stephanie Chu were introduced as members of Rogers and Associates who are overseeing and helping to structure the program.

A CBO taskforce was formed to recommend the timeline for RFP release, the target audiences, funding allocations per region, the overall program messages, and CBO qualifications and criteria.

The taskforce has representatives from the county commissions, the Diversity Committee, foundations and some non-conflicted CBOs to provide insights on the process. The role of the State Commission is to review the taskforce recommendations, determine the funding allocations per region, finalize the master RFP and oversee program administration. The role of the regional committees will be to determine and

develop the local priorities on messages, issue the RFP in conjunction with the public education program team, determine the size of and select CBOs to receive grants in their respective regions. The State Commission's public relations contractor, Rogers and Associates, will be issuing the RFP in conjunction with the regions, developing the administrative financial systems and making payments to the contracted CBOs, providing technical assistance to the CBOs, and monitor their progress.

Nicole Evans presented the timeline for this project. Staff met last night with some of the State Commission representatives, but final decisions have not yet been made. The first RFP should be released in October and funded January and the last one would be released in March and funded in May. The work is expected to last from 20 to 24 months. The target audience is very broad. In determining regional allocation of the \$6 million per year, staff is considering a minimum allocation per region, birth rate or other special factor data. Additionally, consideration is being given to setting aside a percentage of funding and basing the remainder of funding on a contingency or flex fund to allow the State Commission to fill in any gaps.

The scope of work for the CBO program is not going to be overly confined. Innovative programs are being considered. The overarching program messages will mirror the public education campaign and will also reflect local issues.

Approval and finalization of the master RFP are the next steps in the process. This will be followed by regional committee meetings to customize RFPs.

Chairman Reiner asked for a sense of how progress was being made. Nicole Kasabian assured the Commission that the program was developing smoothly.

Commissioner Vismara asked how the regions were being notified about the availability of the funds. Local advertisements and regional field representatives will be used to disseminate this type of information. Commissioner Vismara asked if there was sufficient time for the local organizations to utilize these resources. Nicole Kasabian stated that there would actually be three rounds. Round one is the only aggressive timeline.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked for an example of an actionable item. Nicole Kasabian stated that the Kit for New Parents is an actionable item.

Commissioner Vismara asked if there had been dialogue with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Kristina Schake informed the Commission that Staff has met with many state agencies in the development of this program.

## Public Comment

John Siegel, Trinity County, suggested, when developing a formula, staff should consider things such as poverty index, low birth weight or population density.

### **XV. Evaluation Request for Proposals (RFP) Update**

Joe Munso presented this discussion item. Staff attended a two-day working session with the Association and others to begin framing the requirements of the RFP. Great progress was made at this session. A draft RFP was developed and shared with the Association. The Association will be providing staff with comments on the document. The Commission will be fully briefed in October in terms of what the RFP components will be, the scope of the evaluation, how the School Readiness Initiative will interact within the overall evaluation, how longitudinal study issues will be addressed, and how State Commission projects will be coordinated.

Chairman Reiner stressed the importance of a longitudinal study and recognized that policy makers use this type of information in making policy decisions.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked for assurance that the data addressing children with special needs and other disabilities would be acquired in order to measure efficacy in that demographic.

### **XVI. \$200,000 Minimum County Allocation**

Joe Munso presented this discussion item. This discussion item addressed the continuation of the minimum allocation of \$200,000 to eight counties, Alpine, Inyo, Mariposa, Modoc, Mono, Plumas, Sierra and Trinity. Staff inquired as to whether or not the State Commission would consider a permanent solution to the minimum funding level to counties.

Chairman Reiner stated that there should be a formula developed and dollar amount determined that would sustain the small counties.

Commissioner Vismara asked what the funds have been used for and if they have been leveraged. Joe Munso informed him that the funds have been used mainly for programs. The funds have been used within their strategic planning process. Commissioner Vismara asked that the aforementioned programs be generally identified in the forthcoming report.

Commissioner Lacey spoke in support of the permanency of the funding.

## Public Comment

Dorinda Ohnstad commented that the permanency is a topic of discussion but is not ready for presentation to the Commission. A consensus should be reached by year end.

Daniel Stein, Mono County CFC, commended the Commission on its decision to allocate a minimum amount to counties. These funds have been used in a fully funded health care program in Mono County. The county has matched the funds with two four-wheel drive vehicles.

John Siegel, Trinity County CFC, commended the Commission for its dedication to serving the needs of the counties.

## **XVII. Commission Meeting Calendar for 2002**

Joe Munso presented this discussion item. The calendar for the coming year was presented. An outline of the calendar follows:

### **JANUARY THROUGH JUNE**

#### **JANUARY**

Discussion of the following products:

- Strategic plan for children with disabilities and special needs
- Public opinion survey
- Strategic concept papers on:
  - Children's Health
  - Training of Formal and Informal Caregivers
  - Prenatal Care
  - Research Agenda
- Adopt Annual Report

#### **FEBRUARY—RETREAT/PLANNING**

Discussion of the following products:

- Master Plan
  - Media Messages
  - Recap of issues presented at the January meeting
- Priority Setting by the Commission

#### **MARCH—NO MEETING--STATE CONFERENCE**

#### **APRIL**

- Revenue forecasts presented
- Finalization of Commission priorities for 2002-03, if needed

#### **MAY**

- Presentation of possible initiatives for investment for 2002-03

JUNE

- Approve initiatives/budget for 2002-03

JULY

- Discuss issues within the State Budget requiring action by the Commission

AUGUST

- If needed, discuss issues within the State Budget requiring action by the Commission

SEPTEMBER—NO MEETING

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER—NO MEETING

### **XVIII. Fiscal Year 2001-02 State Budget**

Joe Munso presented this discussion item. The \$25 million Cal Works and \$5 million Healthy Families budget issues and how they relate to the Commission were discussed. The budget does not assume the use of Commission funds. If there are further budget changes, the Commission could be considered as a funding source. With respect to the \$5 million the legislature proposed to replace the Commission funds if the funds were not received from elsewhere within the Medical program. The Governor vetoed that provision and directed the Department of Health Services to continue to work with the Commission to try to obtain the \$5 million. The Department of Health Services has ideas about how those funds could be used.

Chairman Reiner stated that Healthy Families is in keeping with the goals of the Commission and should be given consideration.

Commissioner Belshé noted that the Commission should be preparing now for ideas that may come forward from the administration or others. Staff was requested to document the Commission's standpoint on the Governor's proposal. This proposal will be the first test case. Many ideas may be aligned with our guiding principles.

Chairman Reiner stated that some projects will require funding on an ongoing basis and some will not. Each case must be reviewed on its merit.

Joe Munso stated that a document clarifying the differences between supplantation and supplementation is being prepared.

Commissioner Belshé suggested that the Commission write a letter to the Governor about supplantation.

Commissioner Vismara asked if MCH programs involved in Healthy Families community outreach. Joe Munso informed the Commission that some are involved and some are not.



Joe Munso informed the Commission that current budget has already taken a \$50 million cut.

#### Public Comment

Barbara Rosen, March of Dimes, stated that the Governor vetoed the entire State General Fund allocation for the counties for maternal and child health this year. That is a \$2.6 million allocation, which is matched by the federal government at a 3:1 level. They are now facing, for the first time in 30 years, a budget that does not support critical programs in the county. If this money is not restored to the budget it will have a very serious impact on programs like the comprehensive prenatal services program, black infant health program, home visitation programs among others. In recent months the March of Dimes, the California Conference of Local Directors of Maternal and Child and Adolescent Health, and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists have worked hard to get legislation passed that would restore these funds. Assembly Women Helen Thomson carried legislation AB 1147 which passed with greater than two thirds support from both houses. It is now on its way to the Governor's desk. Ms. Rosen asked the Commission for support of this legislation.

Gary Packard, Tulare County CFC, stated that the veto message rested on two issues. The first issue was that there was the potential of Proposition 10 money. The second was that there was tobacco settlement money to backfill. The cut will hit mainly small counties.

Renee Dorin, Mono County CFC, stated that her commission has been approached by the Mono County Health Department to backfill.

#### **XIX Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned in honor of Jeanne Jackson.

**MOTION:** Chairman Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Lacey to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.